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WEISMANN ON GERMINAL SELECTION.

THIS last contribution of Prof. Weismann to his system of inheritance and evolution hypotheses was presented to the International Congress of Zoölogists at Leyden last September. It was published in German at the beginning of the current year, and has just appeared in English as No. 19 of the Religion of Science Series (Open Court Publishing Co., Chicago).

It is evident from many expressions throughout the paper that Prof. Weismann considers this one of the most important of all his contributions on the evolution problem, and even those who cannot accept this most advanced and in some respects most speculative of all his hypotheses will nevertheless be inclined to regard the paper as important in marking some fundamental changes in Weismann's position.

During the long continued discussion between Weismann, Spencer and others there was a feeling in certain quarters that something was wrong with the methods employed and that the deadlock of opinion could not be broken by inductive reasoning alone. Weismann's present paper, however, gives evidence that many of the objections raised by his opponents have taken deep hold upon him, and have, in fact, convinced him that his former position was untenable. "The real aim of the present essay," says Weismann, "is to rehabilitate the principle of selection. If I should suc-